

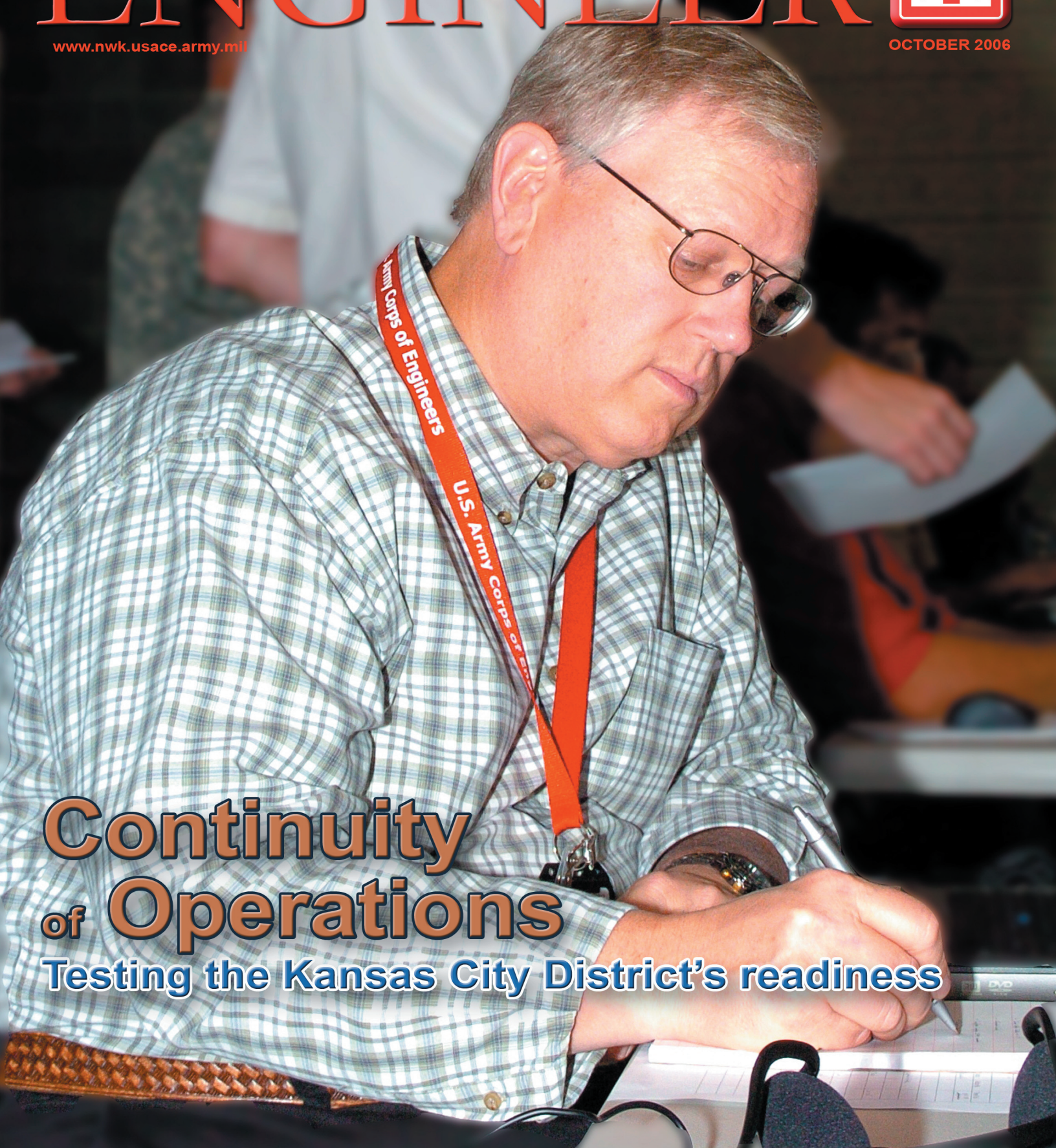
KANSAS CITY DISTRICT'S NEWS MAGAZINE

# HEARTLAND ENGINEER



[www.nwk.usace.army.mil](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil)

OCTOBER 2006



## Continuity of Operations

Testing the Kansas City District's readiness





Ed Kolodziej, Hispanic employment manager, welcomes Julie Robinson at the 2006 Hispanic Heritage Month Observance Sept. 18. Robinson is the branch librarian at the Irene H. Ruiz Biblioteca de las Americas Public Library in Kansas City, Mo. This year's focus for the observance was Hispanic Americans: Our rich culture contributing to America's future. Photo by Diana McCoy

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## RESORT CONSTRUCTION IMPROVES FACILITIES ————— 6

Big changes are coming to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rathbun Lake, as the Corps partners with Iowa to create a new resort park on the lake's shores.

## COOP EXERCISE TESTS KANSAS CITY'S EMERGENCY ABILITIES ————— 8

The annual Kansas City Regional Inter-agency Continuity of Operations Exercise took place Aug. 30 at the Missouri River Area Office which tested the Kansas City District's emergency abilities.

## PROJECT OFFICES ————— 12

This feature highlights the outlying offices of the Kansas City District and their missions.

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## NEWSWATCH

Newsbriefs from around the district and around the Corps.



## PEOPLEPOWER

Jim Roberts is the president of the Kansas City Archeological Society and has been a surface collector for more than 20 years.



## LASTWORD

Greg Wilson encourages Kansas City District employees to fill out a pledge card for the 2006 Combined Federal Campaign.



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## ON THE COVER:

David Glandon, chief of Resource Management, makes notes on an action item he received during the 2006 Continuity of Operations exercise held at the Missouri River Area Office in Napoleon, Mo. The exercise, held Aug. 30, was a simulated emergency designed to give Kansas City District employees experience in how to react in an actual emergency situation. Photo by Alicia Embrey

Fiscal Year 2006 is now in our rear view mirror—and what a year it was for the Kansas City District. It's been truly record setting. We'll have about one week to catch our breath, pat ourselves on the back while we admire our work, grab a crispy hot dog or two on the Bolling patio on a chilly October afternoon, and then get back after it. As I'm writing this submission, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division is leading an offsite with Engineering and Construction Division and Contracting Division participation, reviewing FY06 programmatic after-action reviews and laying out their FY07 performance plan. What I want to do with this short note is pass on what I know of our accomplishments in FY06.

Bottom line up front—the Kansas City District's workload was more than \$730 million in FY06. Compare this with our recent past. We did \$611 million in FY05, \$397 million in FY04, and \$429 million in FY03. We delivered these projects and services with the same 800-person team. How's that for doing more with less? Most of our performance measures (time, cost, quality) have actually improved—a testament to our people and our focus on process.

Our Civil Works Program execution grew from \$76.3 million in FY05 to \$101.8 million this past year. Much of the rise was attributable to our work on Missouri River Restoration and the Dam Rehabilitation at Tuttle Creek. A word or two on Operations and Maintenance: O&M funding from Congress decreased from \$47 million to \$39.3 million in FY06—this most likely from external pressures on the federal budget from the Global War on Terror and Hurricane Recovery/Reconstruction. The success story here is how Operations Division maintained the same, first-class level of service at our lakes, dams and rivers despite their resource challenges. They just bear-up and make it happen and should be commended.

Our Environmental Program (HTRW) execution increased from \$158.2 million in FY05 to \$179.2 million in FY06. What makes this accomplishment so satisfying is the fact that so much of this program is Darwinian—survival of the fittest. Most environmental customers are not hostage to either the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Kansas City District. They vote with their feet and their wallets. We either deliver, or they go to some other district, agency or firm. Growth in this program shows our current customers stay with us, and our reputation for project delivery brings in new work.

Our Military Program grew from \$271.2 million to \$351.3 million this past year. Steady work at Fort Leonard Wood and Fort Leavenworth, as well as McConnell and Whiteman Air Force Bases are substantial programs, each in their own right. The big jump came at Fort Riley with the re-stationing of the Big Red One (1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division)—a program and mission for us which will actually be on the rise through 2010. The fact that we're awarding projects and delivering facilities on or ahead of schedule can get lost in the rush to attack and solve the next set of challenges. Like our HTRW program, some of our customers have a choice—in this case with their OMA work. Here we saw a 60 percent increase in workload: from \$76.8 million to \$12.1 million.

Real Estate had another banner year of accomplishments, measured by numerous metrics. Their overhead rates were again the lowest in the division, and their workload (Recruiting, Housing, Army Reserves, Missouri River Mitigation and Agricultural Leasing) increased from \$8 million to \$12.8 million. Resource Management led the division effort in the FY07 budget formulation, led us through our Chief Financial Officer audit and absolutely smoked their end-of-year nominal balance targets. Human Resources helped us to bring in 72 new permanent personnel from outside the district—up from 47 in FY05. Again, we leverage all we do through Contracting, and they produced 2,129 total contract actions in FY06 for a total of \$730.4 million. They've also made great strides in contract close-out.

Obviously, there are too many people to mention and recognize in this short article—Safety, Internal Review, Logistics, Information Management, Emergency Management, Public Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Small Business, and Security. You all enable us to deliver projects and make this a great place to work. Thanks for your superb effort last year.

Okay. Time to get going on FY07. You know the old saying, “You're only as good as your NEXT time at bat.”



COL Michael A. Rossi

Batter up!



## CHANGE TO SICK LEAVE FOR FAMILY CARE

Currently, an employee must maintain 80 hours of sick leave in his or her sick leave account to be entitled to use up to 104 hours (13 workdays) of sick leave for general family care or bereavement purposes and up to 480 hours (12 work weeks) of sick leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition.

The Office of Personnel Management has issued final regulations concerning the use of sick leave related to family care and/or bereavement that remove the requirement for an employee to maintain a minimum sick leave balance in his or her sick leave account in order to use the maximum amount of sick leave provided for family care and bereavement purposes.

These regulations are being issued as part of OPM's effort to standardize leave policies and provide agencies with guidance on leave programs available to assist employees in the event of a pandemic health crisis. The regulations apply to agencies on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after 18 September 2006 (i.e., for the Kansas City District, the date will be 1 October 2006).

For more information, please contact Jo Ann Wilson, labor-management employee relations specialist in the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at (816) 389-3781 or email her at joann.wilson@nw02.usace.army.mil.

## UNIVERSAL ID CARD PART OF FEDERAL SECURITY UPGRADES

New identification cards to be issued to Defense Department employees beginning October will help standardize workforce identification and security access systems across the government, a senior Defense Department official said in Washington Sept. 15.

The new common access card eventually will be issued to all federal employees and is part of a standardized, secure credentialing system that was mandated after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Mary Dixon, deputy director of the Defense Manpower Data Center in Arlington, Va., said during a joint interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

Starting Oct. 27, the new "super CAC" ID cards will be issued to employees over the next three years as the old cards reach

their expiration dates, she said.

The new cards interface with a secure, encrypted credentialing database and are interoperable for personal identification as well as access to federal buildings and facilities, she said.

However, each facility will still determine who is authorized access, Dixon pointed out. Information embedded on the cards is quickly referenced and compared to centrally stored personnel security clearance data, she said.

"It is an effort to try to improve the security in the federal government," Dixon explained. The new cards also help employees secure their computer networks, she said, and provide improved security for federal buildings, military installations and campuses.

"So, I can use this card, not just in the Department of Defense, but it can be read in other agencies," Dixon said. "If they choose to give me access, they can then read my card," she said.

The new card features the user's photograph, like other cards now in circulation, Dixon said. But its computer chip also will contain two encrypted fingerprints, as well as a unique personal identification number.

The new card can be read, either by swiping it or by waving it near a special card reader, she said.

Issuance of the new card has the potential of reducing the number of agency security badges, Dixon said, because federal agencies will refer to a standardized credentialing system. However, agency security administrators still have the authority to approve or deny access.

"The card, on its own, does not entitle you to any access to anything," Dixon explained. "It is an authentication token."

"Every time you use the card, it is authenticated, meaning somebody checks to make sure that that card is a 'good' card issued in the Department of Defense to you, and that it is still valid," Dixon said.

As always, employees who believe their government-issued ID card has been lost or stolen are required to notify security administrators, Dixon said, who then deactivate the card.

This ensures that cards reported stolen or missing can't be used in DoD, she said.—*Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service.*

## REBUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE, GAINING TRUST

NINEVAH PROVINCE—After several years of neglect in Ninevah Province, the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has stepped in to help rebuild the infrastructure.

Located on Forward Operating Base Diamondback, Mosul, the engineers are currently working on several projects aimed at boosting quality of life and services for local Iraqis.

"We are making a big difference here in northern Iraq," said Lisa Lawson, project engineer, USACE, gulf region north, and resident of Tulsa, Okla. "We are helping to provide water, electricity, schools, police stations, and health clinics."

The mission of USACE is to provide quality, responsive, full-spectrum engineering services in support of military and civil construction, and aggressively assist the Iraqi government to assume full responsibility for national reconstruction. These projects involve working with and training Iraqis to manage and implement their own projects to rebuild Iraq.

"In Ninevah, an underground cable system was installed that will benefit 7,000 residents," said Gregory Scott, project engineer.

The multi-million dollar cable system will provide more reliable power to many neighborhoods for commercial, industrial, and residential use. It will also provide electricity for future growth.

The second project replaces an old electricity substation to make way for a new substation at a cost of \$1.48 million.

"The new substation will provide more reliable power to a high population area in Ninevah," said Antoine Jackson, project manager. "It will also reduce the load of the other substations and will allow for future growth of this part of the city."

Money for these infrastructure upgrades comes from the Iraqi Reconstruction & Relief Effort, which Congress authorized in 2003 to help restore Iraq. Congress passed the IRRF to address the extensive requirements for Iraq reconstruction identified before the war and during the summer and fall of 2003.

With the assistance of IRRF, the Iraqi infrastructure is starting to take shape in Ninevah and citizens are starting to realize that Coalition Forces are here to assist them in helping them rebuild their country.—*Spc. Rich Vogt, 138th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

## SOCIAL SECURITY ANNOUNCES INCREASE FOR 2007

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits

*continued on page 14*



# Volunteering provides thrill of discovery

Archeology seems a long way from Jim Roberts' everyday job as the Kansas City District's property book officer and a general supply specialist in the Logistics Management Division.

It has, however, been Roberts' off-the-job vocation for more than 20 years. He is the current president of the Kansas City Archeological Society, a certified basic archeological surveyor and a basic archeological lab technician.

He said it started with collecting.

"As a kid, I was always a collector, whether it was ball cards or fossils. As an adult, I collected bottles. One day I was coming back from looking for bottles, and I passed a construction site near Martin City (Mo.), and I saw a lady with a clipboard following along behind this earthmover. She was an archeologist, and she was looking for artifacts and soil stains," Roberts said.

A man assisting the archeologist was standing nearby, and Roberts found it was possible to volunteer on archeological sites. Since then, he has attended seminars where he learned archeological techniques, and has personally surveyed more than 100 sites each in Missouri and Kansas.

"My real interest is in prehistory," Roberts said. "I've assisted in a site near Fort Scott, Kan., that was a Mississippian site, dating to about 1,000 A.D. I'd go down and work on weekends and days off."

Although his first love is with such prehistoric sites, Roberts has also assisted with historic archeology.

"I worked on a plantation in Clay County, Mo., where the house burned down in the 1960s. The original historic mansion had belonged to one of the original settlers in Clay County, who had been the Indian agent and owned 1,000 acres of land. We located the foundation of an outbuilding that might have been a barn. We went back to look for the slave quarters, but we didn't find them."

Roberts said he doesn't "dig" unless he is supervised by an archeologist.



When not at his desk in Logistics Management, Jim Roberts can frequently be found in the field or the laboratory working on an archeological project. He is the current president of the Kansas City Archeological Society. *Photo by Eric Cramer*

## PEOPLEPOWER

People Power is a monthly column designed to highlight the outstanding accomplishments or human interests of a district employee. Supervisors and peers are encouraged to nominate team members to be featured in an upcoming issue of *Heartland Engineer*.

Nominations should include a brief summary of the nominee's accomplishment and contact information for the person submitting the nomination. Nominations should be submitted by the 15th of the month for consideration for the next issue.

**Nominations should be sent to:**

**PEOPLEPOWER**  
c/o Public Affairs Office  
700 Federal Building  
601 East 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106  
or e-mailed to:  
thomas.a.ohara@usace.army.mil

*continued on page 14*



# Resort construction improves facilities at Rathbun Lake, local economy

By Eric Cramer

**B**ig changes are coming to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Rathbun Lake, as the Corps partners with Iowa to create a new resort park on the lake's shores.

Bill Duey, project manager at Rathbun Lake, said the resort's first phase will include a 105-room lodge with an indoor water park, meeting facilities, an 18-hole golf course, boat ramps and slips and a recreational vehicle park with 20 RV hook-up sites.

"Honey Creek Resort State Park is a new park development project on a beautiful 850-acre peninsula on Rathbun Lake. The Corps owns 450 acres of the site along the shoreline and has issued a 40-year recreation lease to the state of Iowa for developing this park. The other 400 acres along the ridge top are owned by the state of Iowa," Duey said.

"This is the first resort park Iowa has ever developed," Duey said. "It's being developed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources."

Duey said the state is entering into an agreement with Regency Hotel Management, a resort-management firm based in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Funding for the \$40.7 million project comes from a variety of public and private entities. The state is issuing revenue bonds sufficient to provide \$28 million for construction, which will be tax exempt and triple-A rated. The remaining funding comes from several different revenue streams, including \$2 million in donated in-kind services from Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Iowa Telecom and the Rathbun Regional Water Association.

Duey said \$2.4 million will come from the state's road fund, another \$1.4 million will come from the state's Marine Fuel Tax, and the state legislature is appropriating an additional \$3.6 million for the construction project.



Appanoose and Monroe counties, Rathbun Lake Resort, Inc. (a local steering/support committee) and private contributors have provided more than \$2 million in cash advances to be repaid from hotel/motel tax receipts. An extensive private fundraising campaign to raise at least \$2 million will begin soon. These funds will be used to provide a variety of recreational facilities in the park.

Duey said the resort will provide the lake with new recreational activities and facilities that currently are not available at Rathbun.

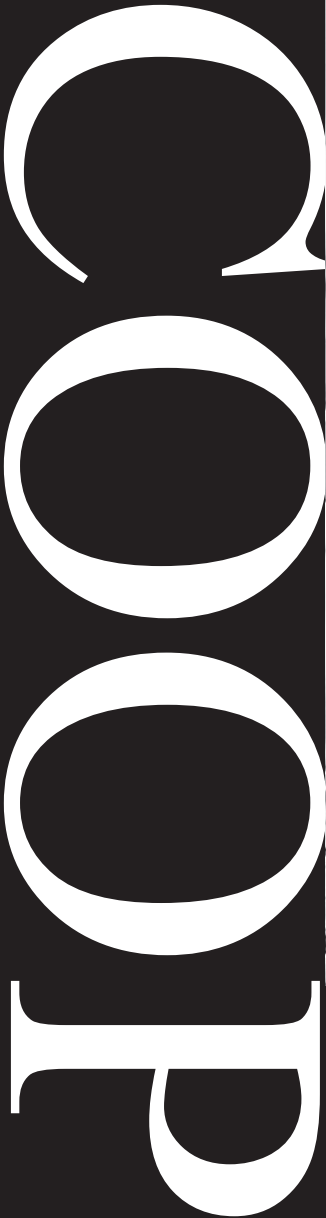
"We're already seeing increased use in camping and boating just from the publicity of the resort park development" he said. "These new facilities will attract visitors to the lake area who are not currently traveling here."

"This particular resort park development is special in that it will have high quality overnight lodging accommodations and amenities in close proximity to high quality natural resource features" Duey stated. "There are several hundred acres of the park that are set aside as a preserve and include beautiful tall grass prairie and oak savanna ecosystems. Primitive trails have been carefully developed in those areas to help visitors see these resources without causing adverse impacts. It will be a great park and attract visitors









Larry Myers, Kevin Bond and Vincent Marsh (left to right) collaborate during the 2006 Continuity of Operations exercise. The exercise employed the Emergency Relocation Group which moved from the Kansas City District headquarters in downtown Kansas City to the Missouri River Area Office in Napoleon, Mo. *Photo by Eric Cramer*

## Exercise tests Kansas City's emergency abilities

*By Eric Cramer*

A four-state storm on Aug. 30, and more than 156 tornados in 24 hours, hit western Missouri, and Kansas City especially hard.

The mayor of Gladstone, a quiet urban center just north of Kansas City, said his town didn't exist anymore. Rainfall caused sand boils on upstream levees, and there were rumors of damage to the levee around Charles B. Wheeler Airport. A power transformer at the Truman Lake Dam exploded, taking the power plant out of production and contaminating the lake with oil.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District headquarters in the Richard Bolling Federal Building received extensive damage and would not be usable for at least three months.

All of this never happened, or at least it hasn't happened yet. It was the scenario used in the Kansas City Regional Inter-agency Continuity of Operations Exercise for 2006, or KCRICE '06, known to most in the Kansas City District as the "COOP" exercise.

The leadership of multiple federal agencies worked to meet the disaster posed by the drill, which played out over four hours, followed by an extensive after action review.

For the Kansas City District, the exercise moved the Emergency Relocation Group from the downtown Kansas City headquarters to a remote operations center established in a metal building at the district's Missouri River Area Office at Napoleon, Mo.

Key to the realism of the exercise was the use of alternative computer and Voice-Over Internet Protocol, or VoIP, phone systems. District officers dialed telephone numbers through their laptop





computers, fitted with headsets, to provide connections to the outside world.

Setting up that system of joint computer network and telephone communications took between three and four hours the day before the drill, said Kansas City District Information Management Chief Steve Burns.

"In an emergency, we'd spend the first few hours setting up, and people could get on-line as we were able to get them connected," Burns said.

He said the Internet and VoIP systems worked as designed.

"It's working well here locally, and the remote server is working normally," Burns said.

With communications established from the outset, the first order of business for the district's department supervisors was accounting for their employees, presumed to be scattered by the impact of the immense storm.

Col. Michael Rossi, district commander, said accountability would be the number one priority in the event of an actual natural disaster.

"We have to make certain we know they're okay and that we can get in touch with them," Rossi said.

Each hour throughout the drill, division chiefs were asked to report on the status of their work, and each status report included an update on personnel accountability.

At 9 a.m., before the first set of reports, Rossi gave the team an update.

"We know what we're doing, and we're doing fine," he

said. "Accountability would be the largest problem."

He cautioned the team leaders that not every message they received through the course of the drill, such as one citing embankment damage to the dam at Blue Springs Lake, would turn out to be true.

"First reports are usually alarmist. It's important to step back, take a breath, and work our way through the problem," Rossi said.

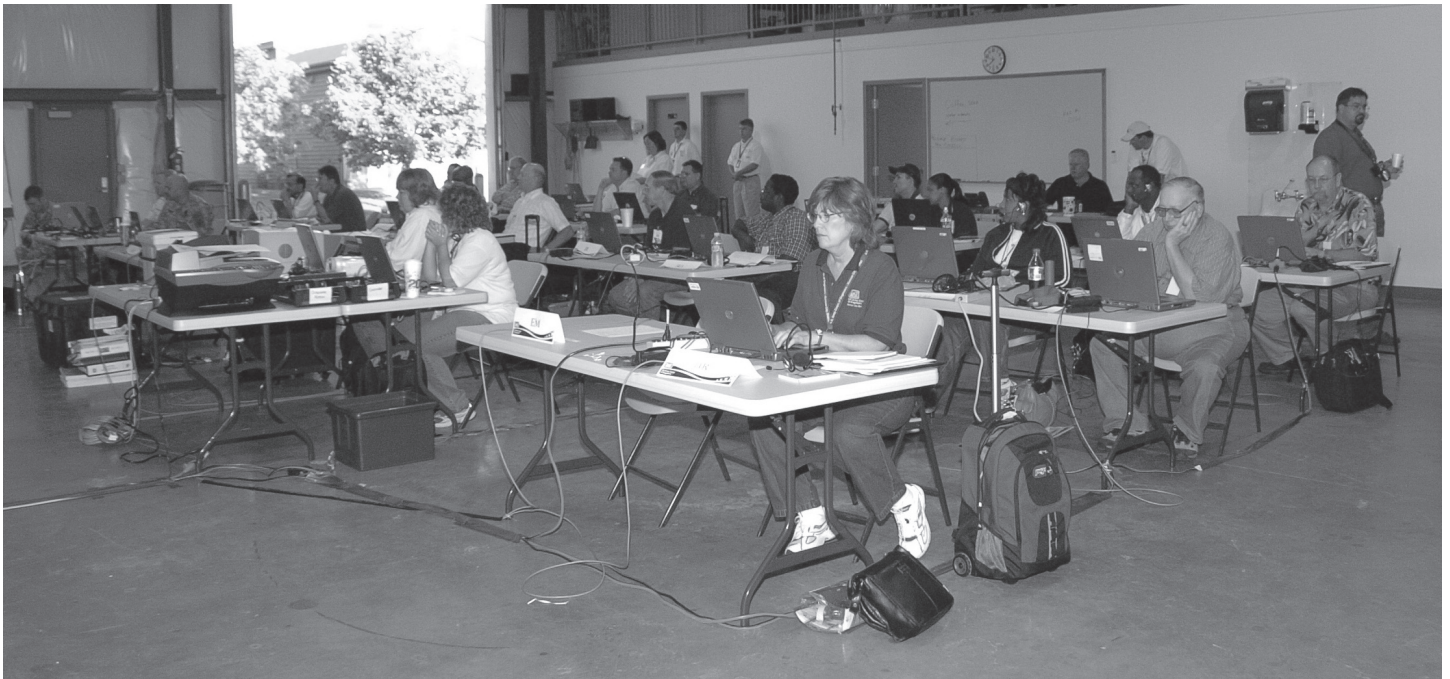
The various offices working at the remote location continued to work their problems throughout the morning. Midway through the exercise, the drill moved to "phase two" operations, which involved making plans and taking steps to deal with a longer-term crisis. This included finding long-term housing and workspaces for displaced employees and preparations for long-term operations.

With a large part of the exercise already finished, controllers inserted a new problem—Internet lines connecting the network to its Portland servers went down.

Emergency Management Specialist Dave Hoover, a controller for the exercise, said the loss of connectivity was intentional.

"We wanted to get people to think about how they would do their jobs if there is no Internet and if our Voice-over-Internet phones weren't working," Hoover said. "I know that Kevin Bond (Kansas City District Counsel) was researching something on the Internet when the lines went down. He had an electronic copy of what he was looking at, and a hard copy, so he was prepared."

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Kansas City District employees participated in the Continuity of Operations exercise held Aug. 30 at the Missouri River Area Office in Napoleon, Mo. The exercise lasted four hours and made use of the Voice over Internet Protocol phone systems. *Photo by Alicia Embrey*





Col. Michael Rossi (right) and Bill Zaner, chief of construction for Kansas City, confer on an action item during the KCRICE exercise. The exercise was conducted as though multiple tornadoes had damaged the Richard Bolling Federal Building, requiring district employees to work from remote locations. *Photo by Eric Cramer*

At noon, the drill ended and the “disaster” was over.

Participants called the drill a learning experience.

Dave Glandon, resource management chief, said the exercise showed the rapid pace of emergency operations.

“Due to constrained time limits, I observed there was often little interaction among staff, and it was difficult to keep up with all of the action items,” he said. “As a result of the exercise, I identified a few shortfalls in my functional area—dependency on automated systems to accomplish the mission and the importance of having reference materials/fly away kits on electronic media.”

“Without exercises like this we’d be lost like a lamb,” said Des Goyal, chief of the Operations Division. “It lets us interact with other team members in a developing situation.”

Rossi agreed.

“You need to do this,” he said. “You need to shake out your equipment and see what holes there are in your plan. We’re doing that and finding the gaps in our knowledge. These also show us our ability to telework and ask certain people ‘do you need to be able to telework?’”

Larry Myers, deputy for outreach, said the exercise was vastly improved over similar exercises in years past.

“Everyone is more engaged,” Myers said. “I think they understand the necessity for things like this, and that makes it better overall. I’d say it was a good preparation for an emergency. In a real emergency, a lot of this work would move down one level—the division chiefs would be supported by their staffs—but it gives the chiefs a chance to grasp the problem at this level, and that’s good for the organization and the public.”





Eileen Nistetter and Jim Roberts work issues during the exercise, which allowed employees to test their emergency operations plans. *Photo by Alicia Embrey*



Above: Stephanie Martens (left) and Paul Flamm of the Emergency Operations Center work to administer the 2006 Continuity of Operations exercise. The scenario involved a four-state storm which included 156 tornados.

*Photo by Alicia Embrey*



Jud Kneuvean (left) of the Emergency Operations Center talks to Maj. Matthew Little during the exercise. The number one priority during an actual disaster is accountability of employees. *Photo by Alicia Embrey*



Tom O'Hara (far left) and Eric Cramer (second from left) discuss public affairs issues during the exercise. In the background, Mark Asbury (far right) discusses safety issues with Maj. Matthew Little. *Photo by Alicia Embrey*



**Fort Riley Resident Office, Fort Riley, Kan.**

*Managed by:* Mark Schuler, resident engineer  
*Mission:* Military construction; works in conjunction with the Modularity Resident Office.

**Modularity Resident Office, Fort Riley, Kan.**

*Managed by:* Mike Istas, resident engineer  
*Mission:* Military construction. Works in conjunction with the Fort Riley Resident Office.

**Tuttle Creek Resident Office, Manhattan, Kan.**

*Managed by:* Kathy Lust, resident engineer  
*Mission:* Civil Works.

**Kansas Area Office**

Co-located with Tuttle Creek and Fort Riley

*Managed by:* Rex Goodnight, area engineer

*Mission:* Provides oversight of the resident offices, management of the construction and administration and houses a senior administrative contracting officer.

**Kanopolis Satellite Office, Marquette, Kan.**

*Managed by:* Luke Cory, project manager  
*Mission:* Provide strong protection of the nation's aquatic environment. It provides service to the northern half of Kansas.

**McConnell Resident Office,  
McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.**

*Managed by:* John Schwartzbeck, resident engineer  
*Mission:* Provide construction services to the Air Force for mid to larger construction projects.

**Kansas State Regulatory Office, El Dorado, Kan.**

*Managed by:* William Jeffries, program manager  
*Mission:* Provide strong protection of the nation's aquatic environment. It provides service to the southern half of Kansas.

# Project Offices



## **Fort Leavenworth Resident Office, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.**

*Managed by:* David Manka, resident engineer

*Mission:* Primarily a military construction mission with a small amount of civil works.

## **Kansas City Resident Office, Independence, Mo.**

*Managed by:* Fred Kraft, resident engineer

*Mission:* Civil works and some military construction.

## **Missouri River Area Office**

*Managed by:* Larry Irvin, area engineer

*Mission:* to maintain 500 miles of the Missouri River for navigation and bank stabilization.

## **Glasgow Project Office, Glasgow, Mo.**

*Mission:* Works in conjunction with the Missouri River Area Office and the Gasconade Project Office. It houses an inspector and survey crew.

## **Gasconade Project Office, Gasconade, Mo.**

*Mission:* Works in conjunction with the Missouri River Area Office and the Glasgow Project Office. It houses the district's barges and tugboats.

## **Radio Shop, Kansas City, Mo.**

*Managed by:* Echo Kean

*Mission:* Install and maintain two-way radios in vehicles at Kansas City District projects.

## **Whiteman Resident Office, Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo.**

*Managed by:* James Rudy, resident engineer

*Mission:* Military construction.

## **Truman Regulatory Field Office, Warsaw, Mo.**

*Managed by:* Mel Stanford, project manager

*Mission:* Provide strong protection of the nation's aquatic environment. It provides service to southwest Missouri and the Ozarks.

## **Missouri State Regulatory Office, Jefferson City, Mo**

*Managed by:* Craig Litteken, program manager

*Mission:* Provide strong protection of the nation's aquatic environment. It provides service to north central Missouri and the central Missouri River.

## **Missouri Area Office, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.**

*Managed by:* Rex Ostrander, area engineer

*Mission:* Military construction, civil works and environmental cleanup. It provides oversight of the resident offices and management of construction.

## **Fort Leonard Wood Resident Office, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.**

*Managed by:* Jessie Vance, resident engineer

*Mission:* Military construction, civil works and environmental cleanup.



# SOCIAL SECURITY ANNOUNCES INCREASE

continued from page 4

for more than 53 million Americans will increase 3.3 percent in 2007, the Social Security Administration announced Oct. 18.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits increase automatically each year based on the rise in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), from the third quarter of the prior year to the corresponding period of the current year. This year's increase in the CPI-W was 3.3 percent.

The 3.3 percent Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits that nearly 49 million Social Security beneficiaries receive in January 2007. Increased payments to more than 7 million Supplemental Security Income beneficiaries will begin on December 29.

Some other changes that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$97,500 from \$94,200. Of the estimated 163 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2007, about 11 million will pay higher taxes as a result of the increase in the taxable maximum in 2007.

Information about Medicare changes for 2007 can be found at [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov).—Mark Lassiter, Social Security Administration.

## OMB POSTS PROGRESS REPORTS

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) announced Sept. 25 that federal agencies are on track to complete reforms made to manufacturing regulations.

The regulatory reforms are intended to lower costs, improve effectiveness, and increase flexibility for small manufacturers while still maintaining important protections for public health and the environment. OMB will post progress summaries on its public Web site on a timely and regular basis in order to help Congress and small business manufacturers

monitor these changes.

In February, 2004, OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) encouraged the submission of public nominations of specific regulations, guidance documents, and paperwork requirements that would help ease unnecessary regulatory burdens on America's manufacturers, particularly small manufacturers.

In response to the solicitation made by its draft 2004 Report to Congress, OMB received 189 separate nominations, and OMB and the respective rulemaking agencies then identified 76 priority nominations of reform, which OMB announced in March 2005. Today's chart indicates that 39 of the reforms have been reviewed and implemented. All reforms are expected to be closed out by 2008, and in order to help the public stay current on these regulatory developments as they occur, OMB will continue to provide periodic updates.

"It is important that we continue to work to eliminate unnecessary regulatory burdens on small businesses and manufacturers, as we also continue to ensure that vital protections to the environment and the public health are upheld. Small businesses and manufacturers are on the frontline of the economy and job creation and are the laboratories for innovation. When they thrive, our economy thrives," said Steve Aitken, Acting OIRA Administrator. "As important reforms are made, we believe it is important to keep the regulatory process transparent and easily accessible to Congress, stakeholders, and the general public. OMB will continue to work with Federal agencies to ensure the public has the most up-to-date information as reforms are implemented."—Office of Management and Budget.

## VOLUTEERING PROVIDES THRILL OF DISCOVERY

continued from page 5

"Basically, I'm a surface collector. For the last three years I've worked for the Kansas Anthropological Association, and I'll be attending their training at Council Gove, Kan., sorting, cataloging and cleaning artifacts."

Roberts said he and other volunteers from the Kansas State Historical Society are assisting an archeologist working for the Corps' Tulsa District. "We are trying to identify the locations of some previously

surveyed sites. We're making sure where they're located on paper matches the actual terrain," he said.

Roberts says any archeology includes the "thrill of discovery," but a lot of people have an incorrect view that discovery has to happen in the field.

"Since June, 2005 I've been cleaning and cataloging artifacts from Fort Osage (a historic site operated by the Parks and Recreation Department in Eastern Jackson County, Mo.). There was the thrill of discovery there, as a lot of the material is just bagged in the field, and the discoveries take place in the lab."

"We were able to recover items from the Kansas and Hopewell eras (pre-historic eras recognized by archeologists to represent different pre-historic cultures) and from the era the fort operated, from about 1800 to 1812. Then there was the town of Sibley, which operated there from about 1835 to 1875, before it moved to its current location."

Additionally, Roberts has surveyed a forgotten family cemetery in Eastern Jackson County, Mo., dating from the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century and has found a site near it that was apparently used as a dump site by someone who served as a trash collector from downtown Kansas City from the same era.

"I also found a three-quarter grooved (stone) axe head on the construction site of the Holiday Inn Express at Interstate 470 and Bowlin Road, which was a nice little Archaic site, and I found a Civil War Minie ball on the site of the Winterstone Golf Club (in Independence, Mo.). I can't prove it, but that may have come from (Confederate) Gen. Sterling Price's last raid, as he moved down what is today U.S. 24 Highway."

Roberts said he may retire in a few years and pursue archeology in his retirement.

"The qualification for what constitutes a historic artifact is 50 years or older, and I qualify as a historic artifact myself, now," he said, laughing.



# Hope lives... when you give



Greg Wilson, chief of Real Estate, is the 2006 CFC coordinator for the Kansas City District.  
*Photo by Diana McCoy*

**T**he 2006 Combined Federal Campaign theme is “Hope Lives... When You Give,” and the campaign is just around the corner. Our campaign will run from Oct. 4 through Nov. 15. The Richard Bolling Federal Building Kickoff Ceremony was held Oct. 5.

The Kansas City District 2006 CFC Steering Committee members are Barbara Cunningham, Christina Hollon-Wells, Ed Kolodziej, Sharon McDonald, Michael Prine, Chris Stewart, Debbie Taylor, Rusty Thomas and Sheryl Welch. They are working diligently on your behalf!!! It is a pleasure to witness their “leadership” in action.

The awesome Kansas City District canvassers at this time include Robin Bridges, Ken Burford, Sandra Flanery, Florentine Gilkey, Dave Hibbs, Kris Ann Huber, Judd Kneuvean, Rose Lynch, Theresa Matthys, Sandeep Mehta, Grant Montney, Patricia Pitre, Arthur Saulsberry, Richard Skinker, Shelly Thomas, Karen Turner, Robin Wankum, Beverly Weber and some members of the Steering Committee.

Our goal is \$90,000 and a minimum 50 percent participation of donors filling out a pledge card. Since we will meet the other criteria, the district will earn a “Caring For Community Award” for the first time—if we can reach the 50 percent participation.

Many of the agencies under the umbrella of CFC have provided direct help to district employees and/or their extended families. I have received calls from several employees who have committed to donating very nice gifts for the silent auction, to help with fund raisers and by signing a pledge card because they are compelled to help the agencies that were previously there for them.

While all donations of items in the fund raisers are greatly appreciated, the critical element is completing a pledge card. It is EASY! You can either use payroll deduction or simply attach a check as a one-time payment to the pledge card.

Considering the caring spirit and the big hearts of the Kansas City District, there is no doubt both goals will be achieved. Please contact any member of the steering committee or myself if you would like to volunteer your time and/or donate any item for the silent auction, bake sale, and or chili contest/sale.

Ed Kolodziej is helping the CFC Regional Leadership Team as a “loaned executive” during the entire campaign for the second straight year. Please thank him for his service to CFC the next time you see him.

I also want to thank Benita Townsend for volunteering this year as well as last year in raising funds during the Building Kickoff event. She sang in a “Name that Tune” booth.

Thanks in advance for your donations, sharing your hard earned money and for participating in the CFC campaign. I think we all concur with the slogan “Hope Lives... When You Give.”

P.S. The website for the Heartland CFC contains awesome information about a golf tournament, bowling league and other scheduled events. Check it out at [www.heartlandcfc.org](http://www.heartlandcfc.org)



Thanks,  
Greg Wilson  
2006 NWK CFC Coordinator





# Combined Federal Campaign 2006

## Hope lives. . . when you give

